

IN THE CLAIMS

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) A tank fitting comprising:

a longitudinal stepped internal bore passing through first and second ends of the tank fitting, the internal bore having first and second diameters respectively defining first and second sockets of a female-end region of the tank fitting adjacent the first end, the internal bore further having a third diameter that forms an internal diameter of a male-end region of the tank fitting adjacent the second end, the male-end region adapted to be received within a fitting or a pipe for bonding thereto;

a flange disposed between the first and second ends;

external threads disposed between the flange and the first end;

a gasket disposed between the flange and the first end so as to abut the flange;

a stud protruding from a face of the flange toward the first end and passing completely through the gasket; and

a nut threadably attachable to the external threads, the nut comprising an annular groove into which the stud extends when the nut is threadably attached to the external threads.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The tank fitting of claim 10, and further comprising an alignment rib disposed on an exterior of tank fitting between the flange and the second end.

RESPONSE TO ADVISORY ACTION

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Serial No. 10/670,045

Attorney Docket No. 165001US01

Title: TANK FITTING AND METHOD OF USE

13. (Original) The tank fitting of claim 12, wherein the alignment rib is located 180 degrees around the tank fitting from the stud.

14-27. (Canceled)